ſhould be ſtill frequented with ſuch an unprincipl'd, unedify'd, and laick rabble, as that the whiffe of every new pamphlet ſhould ſtagger them out of thir catechiſm, and Chriſtian walking. This may have much reaſon to diſcourage the Miniſters when ſuch a low conceit is had of all their exhortations, and the benefiting of their hearers, as that they are not thought fit to be turn'd looſe to three ſheets of paper without a licencer, that all the Sermons, all the Lectures preacht, printed, vented in ſuch numbers, and ſuch volumes, as have now well-nigh made all other books unſalable, ſhould not be armor anough againſt one ſingle *enchiridion*, without the caſtle St. *Angelo* of an *Imprimatur*.

And leſt ſom ſhould perſwade ye, Lords and Commons, that theſe arguments of lerned mens diſcouragement at this your order, are meer flouriſhes, and not reall, I could recount what I have ſeen and heard in other Countries, where this kind of inquiſition tyrannizes; when I have ſat among their lerned men, for that honor I had, and bin counted happy to be born in ſuch a place of *Philoſophic* freedom, as they ſuppos'd England was, while themſelvs did nothing but bemoan the ſervil condition into which lerning amongſt them was brought; that this was it which had dampt the glory of Italian wits; that nothing had bin there writt'n now theſe many years but flattery and fuſtian. There it was that I found and viſited the famous *Galileo* grown old, a priſner to the Inquiſition, for thinking in Aſtronomy otherwiſe then the Franciſcan and Dominican licencers thought. And though I knew that England then was groaning loudeſt under the Prelaticall yoak, nevertheleſſe I took it as a pledge of future happines, that other Nations were ſo perſwaded of her liberty. Yet was it beyond my hope that thoſe Worthies were then breathing in her air, who ſhould be her leaders to ſuch a deliverance, as ſhall never be forgott'n by any revolution of time that this world hath to finiſh. When that was once begun, it was as little in my fear, that what words of complaint I heard among lerned men of other parts utter'd againſt the Inquiſition, the ſame I ſhou'd hear by as lerned men at home utterd in time of Parlament againſt an order of licencing; and that ſo generally, that when I had diſclos'd my ſelf a companion of their diſcontent, I might ſay, if without envy, that he whom an honeſt *quæſtorſhip* had indear'd to the *Sicilians*, was not more by them importun'd againſt *Verres*, then the favourable opinion which I had among many who honour ye, and are known and reſpected by ye, loa-

loaded me with entreaties and perſwaſions, that I would not deſpair to lay together that which juſt reaſon ſhould bring into my mind, toward the removal of an undeſerved thraldom upon lerning. That this is not therefore the disburdning of a particular fancie, but the common grievance of all thoſe who had prepar'd their minds and ſtudies above the vulgar pitch to advance truth in others, and from others to entertain it, thus much may ſatisfie. And in their name I ſhall for neither friend nor foe conceal what the generall murmur is; that if it come to inquiſitioning again, and licencing, and that we are ſo timorous of our ſelvs, and ſo ſuſpicious of all men, as to fear each book, and the ſhaking of every leaf, before we know what the contents are, if ſome who but of late were little better then ſilenc't from preaching, ſhall come now to ſilence us from reading, except what they pleaſe, it cannot be gueſt what is intended by ſom but a ſecond tyranny over learning: and will ſoon put it out of controverſie that Biſhops and Presbyters are the ſame to us both name and thing. That thoſe evills of Prelaty which before from five or ſix and twenty Sees were diſtributivly charg'd upon the whole people, will now light wholly upon learning, is not obſcure to us: whenas now the Paſtor of a ſmall unlearned Pariſh, on the ſudden ſhall be exalted Archbiſhop over a large dioces of books, and yet not remove, but keep his other cure too, a myſticall pluraliſt. He who but of late cry'd down the ſole ordination of every novice Batchelor of Art, and deny'd ſole juriſdiction over the ſimpleſt Pariſhioner, ſhall now at home in his privat chair aſſume both theſe over worthieſt and excellenteſt books and ableſt authors that write them. This is not, Yee Covnants and Proteſtations that we have made, this is not to put down Prelaty, this is but to chop an Epiſcopacy, this is but to tranſlate the Palace *Metropolitan* from one kind of dominion into another, this is but an old canonicall ſlight of *commuting* our penance. To ſtartle thus betimes at a meer unlicenc't pamphlet will after a while be afraid of every conventicle, and a while after will make a conventicle of every Chriſtian meeting. But I am certain that a State govern'd by the rules of juſtice and fortitude, or a Church built and founded upon the rock of faith and true knowledge, cannot be ſo puſillanimous. While things are yet not conſtituted in Religion, that freedom of writing ſhould be reſtrain'd by a diſcipline imitated from the Prelats, and learnt by them from the Inquiſition to ſhut us up all again into the breſt of a licencer, muſt needs give cauſe of doub- and

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